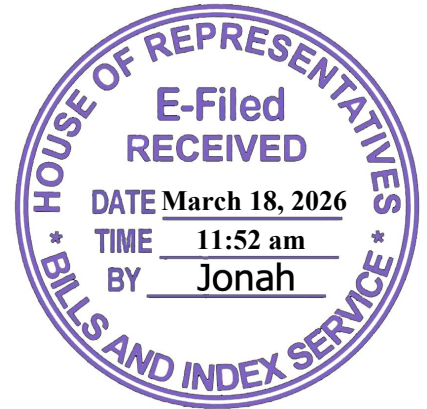


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8649



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to strengthen fiscal transparency and reinforce accountability in public expenditure by resolving structural gaps in the disclosure, accessibility, and verification of government financial information. This ensures that every peso of the Filipino people remains traceable and protected from systemic opacity. Despite legislative measures directed towards the digitalizing of public records, like Republic Act No. 12254, otherwise known as the “*E-Governance Act*”, the Philippines continue to face challenges like fragmented reporting practices and inconsistent data publication across various agencies. These weaken the public’s ability to fully monitor how public funds move across the budget cycle.

The 2023 Open Budget Survey conducted by the International Budget Partnership gave the Philippines a transparency score of seventy-five out of a hundred (75/100)¹. While this makes the country the most fiscally transparent country not just in Southeast Asia, but in the whole of Asia, the Philippines still lacks a fully integrated and user-friendly platform that consolidates all fiscal data for public information. The World Bank emphasizes that a lack of interoperability between government databases reduces the effectiveness of public financial management². Without a unified and secure digital repository, transparency efforts often remain symbolic and fail to provide the real-time oversight necessary to prevent the misuse of funds.

This proposed measure establishes the Citizen Access and Disclosure of Expenditures for National Accountability (CADENA) which mandates the timely and structured publication of all key budgetary, procurement, and audit documents. It utilizes verifiable digital signatures and requires redundant mirror sites to ensure data integrity and sovereignty, keeping all sensitive financial information strictly under Philippine jurisdiction.

¹International Budget Partnership. 2023. *Open Budget Survey* 2023. <https://internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey/country-results/2023/philippines>

This bill aligns with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 by reinforcing public sector accountability, strengthening governance systems, and improving institutional efficiency. It also supports the county's commitment under Sustainable Development Goal 16, which calls for transparent, effective, and inclusive institutions.

Public funds are held in trust for the Filipino people, and the State bears the responsibility to ensure that every peso is accounted for in a manner that is transparent, verifiable, and accessible. This bill provides the structural and technological foundation to make that principle a lived reality across all levels of government.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8649

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
MANDATING FULL DISCLOSURE OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES
THROUGH AN OPEN, SECURE, AND TECHNOLOGY-NEUTRAL DIGITAL
PLATFORM WITH MECHANISMS FOR REAL-TIME PUBLIC ACCESS, DATA
INTEGRITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Citizen Access and Disclosure of Expenditures for National Accountability (CADENA) Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold transparency, accountability, and integrity in the management, disbursement, and reporting of public funds. To preserve data sovereignty and ensure national control, all systems, databases, and nodes supporting fiscal disclosure under this Act shall be hosted, operated, and governed within Philippine jurisdiction.

The State shall adopt technology-neutral mechanisms that ensure performance, integrity, and security without mandating specific proprietary platforms. It shall safeguard honesty in public service, institute effective measures against graft and corruption, and guarantee that citizens have open, verifiable, and meaningful access to fiscal information.

To this end, the government shall establish a unified digital platform providing timely, accurate, tamper-evident, and traceable publication of government budget and financial transactions, ensuring that all appropriations, disbursements, procurements, and expenditures are made publicly accessible.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a. CADENA refers to the digital platform providing timely, accurate, tamper-evident, and traceable publication of budget and financial

transactions using open data standards, interoperability, and verifiable digital signatures;

b. Cryptographic refers to the application of mathematical methods to secure and verify digital data or transactions to ensure integrity and authenticity;

c. Data Integrity refers to the accuracy, consistency, and reliability of data throughout its lifecycle, ensuring no unauthorized alteration;

d. Data Minimization refers to the principle limiting collection and publication to only the necessary and proportionate data;

e. Data Sovereignty refers to the principle that all public budget data belong to the Filipino people, are held in trust by the State, and are governed exclusively by Philippine laws;

f. Digital Signature refers to an electronic authentication method using cryptographic algorithms ensuring authorship, authenticity, and non-repudiation;

g. Disclosure refers to the process of recording, certifying, and publishing public budget data in an accurate, authentic, time-stamped, and accessible manner;

h. Distributed Ledger Technology refers to a shared database architecture ensuring verifiability and resistance to tampering;

i. Interoperability refers to the capability of systems to exchange and process information securely and consistently;

j. Mirror Site refers to an independently hosted copy of CADENA, maintained by accredited institutions to ensure redundancy and tamper-evidence;

k. Open API refers to publicly documented interfaces allowing secure data access or submission;

l. Open-source refers to software whose source code is publicly accessible for review and modification;

m. Public Budget Data refers to all documents and datasets disclosed under Section 5;

n. Publicly Accessible refers to the condition by which data may be freely viewed, searched, downloaded, and verified without prior authorization;

o. Record and Publish refers to the certified, time-bound uploading of fiscal data into CADENA;

p. Redundancy refers to independent systems or copies ensuring data preservation and continuous access;

q. Responsible Agency and Accountable Officer refers to the office and officer identified by the IRR as responsible for disclosure obligations;

r. Structured Digital Format refers to a machine-readable data format that complies with open data standards, such as CSV, JSON, or XML and allows automated processing, analysis, and interoperability among information systems;

s. Tamper-evident refers to the property of a record or system that makes any alteration, deletion, or manipulation of information detectable through digital signatures, versioning, or cryptographic verification; and audit trails that log all access and changes; and

t. Unified Accounts Code Structure (ACS) refers to the government-wide coding framework prescribed by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in coordination with the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Commission on Audit (COA), that provides a unified and consistent classification system for budgeting, accounting, and auditing of government transactions. It serves as the standard reference for identifying the source, purpose, and use of public funds across all phases of the national budget cycle.

SEC. 4. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all National Government branches, departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations, and their subsidiaries.

The Act shall likewise apply to all projects and programs funded through public-private partnerships (PPPs) or foreign-assisted programs insofar as they utilize, disburse, or account for public funds through national government agencies or mechanisms.

All local government units (LGUs) including provinces, cities, and municipalities, shall also disclose their respective budget appropriations, allotments, disbursements, and expenditures through the CADENA platform or its interoperable local counterpart, in accordance with technical and data standards issued jointly by the DBM and DICT.

The implementation for LGUs shall be phased and capacity-based, ensuring that disclosure requirements remain proportionate to the size, fiscal capacity, and digital readiness of each LGU. The DBM, DICT, and DILG shall provide technical assistance and ensure interoperability between national and local transparency systems.

SEC. 5. *Disclosure of Public Budget Data.* – All National Government entities, its departments, bureaus, offices and agencies, including SUCs, GOCCs, GFIs, as well as LGUs are hereby mandated to record and publish data and information in the following documents related to the national government budget process, ensuring that records are digitally certified and publicly accessible in a structured digital format.

TYPE OF DOCUMENT	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY / OFFICE
a) Budget Preparation Documents	
i) Budget Call	DBM
ii) Budget Preparation Forms submitted by agencies through the Online Submission of Budget Proposal (OSBP) Portal	Concerned line agencies, consolidated by DBM
iii) National Expenditure Program (NEP)	DBM
iv) Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF)	DBM
v) President's Budget Message	DBM / Office of the President
b) Budget Legislation Documents	
i) General Appropriations Bill (GAB) versions	House of Representatives and Senate
ii) Individual, Committee, and Bicameral Amendments	House of Representatives and Senate
iii) General Appropriations Act (GAA)	DBM
c) Budget Execution and Fund Release Documents	
i) Agency-level Budget Execution Documents	Concerned agencies
ii) Disbursement Vouchers	Concerned agencies
iii) Registry of Allotments, Obligations, and Disbursements (RAOD)	Concerned agencies
iv) Fund Utilization Reports	Concerned agencies / DBM
v) Allotment Release Orders (SAROs)	DBM
vi) Notices of Cash Allocation (NCAs)	DBM / Bureau of the Treasury (BTr)
vii) Other fund release documents (including Cash Disbursement Ceilings (CDCs), Multi-Year Contractual Authority (MYCA), and other documents)	DBM / BTr
d) Infrastructure and Procurement-Related Documents	
i) Bid Announcements and Invitations to Bid	Procuring agencies
ii) Notices of Award and Notices to Proceed	Procuring agencies
iii) Contracts and Purchase Orders	Procuring agencies
iv) Program of Works	Procuring agencies / DPWH for infra templates
v) Bill of Quantities (BOQ)	Procuring agencies
vi) Detailed Unit Price Analysis	Procuring agencies
vii) Records of Competing Bids	Procuring agencies
viii) Inspection and Acceptance	Procuring agencies

Reports	
ix) Delivery Receipts	Procuring agencies
x) Disbursement Vouchers, Progress Billings, and Completion Certificates	Procuring agencies
xi) Corporate and Beneficial Ownership Disclosures	Procuring agencies
xii) Certifications of Good Standing	Procuring agencies
xiii) Other related documents	As prescribed in IRR
e) Budget Accountability Documents	
i) Agency Financial Statements	Concerned agencies / COA
ii) COA Annual Audit Reports	COA
iii) Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation (AAPSI)	Concerned agencies / COA
iv) Agency Performance Review Reports and Budget and Financial Accountability Forms (BFARs)	DBM / Concerned agencies
v) Records of oversight hearings, performance audits, and corrective action reports	Congress / COA / Concerned agencies

Data and information required to be disclosed under this Section based on these documents shall hereafter be referred to as "Public Budget Data."

(f) Other Documents. - The National Budget Transparency and Accountability Council (NBTAC) may determine additional documents for which other public budget data should be disclosed under this Act, without prejudice to other disclosures necessary to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in the budget process. Disclosures shall include linkage identifiers or references sufficient to trace each appropriation obligation, and disbursement to the corresponding final payee, contractor, or beneficiary program, using the Unified Accounts Code Structure (UACS) and other interoperable tagging standards.

Beyond document publication, agencies shall ensure that budget-cycle datasets are interlinked and reconcilable, allowing citizens to trace the full flow of funds from authorization to actual expenditure and results achieved.

For each type of document listed above, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall clearly identify the responsible agency or office, as well as the designated accountable officer, for the disclosure of public budget data under this Act. For procurement-related documents under subsection (d), the designated accountable officer shall be the Head of the Procurement Entity (HOPE).

All required public budget data in the documents listed above shall be disclosed by the designated accountable officer within seven (7) days from the date of approval, official issuance, receipt of the concerned agency, completion, or generation of the document, whichever is applicable. All corrections or updates shall be versioned in a manner that retains previous entries to ensure data traceability, auditability, and accountability.

The disclosure requirement under this Act shall not apply to specific data fields within documents whose publication would compromise national defense or security, or violate the Republic Act (RA) No. 10173, otherwise known as the “*Data Privacy Act of 2012*”, as determined by the NBTAC in consultation with the National Privacy Commission and other appropriate agencies.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish, restrict, or otherwise limit existing transparency and disclosure obligations under other laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 6. *Data Quality Standards.* – Data quality, formatting, and metadata standards for the CADENA shall ensure consistency, searchability, and interoperability across agencies, enabling cross-referencing through standard coding systems such as the Unified Accounts Code Structure (UACS).

The implementing rules shall ensure that the CADENA aligns with the standards of existing transparency systems of the DBM, COA, and other agencies toward a unified, interoperable, and open public financial data framework.

All datasets published under this Act shall undergo automated and manual cross-agency reconciliation between DBM, COA, and the Bureau of the Treasury to detect inconsistencies, omissions, or duplicate entries. The DICT shall certify technical compliance prior to integration.

SEC. 7. *Establishment of the CADENA Digital Platform.* – There shall be established a digital platform known as the Citizen Access and Disclosure of Expenditures for National Accountability (CADENA) to serve as the official and publicly accessible portal for all public budget data required under this Act.

The CADENA shall serve as the primary access point through which the public may freely access, search, and download public budget data in open-source, interoperable, tamper-evident, and structured digital format. It shall provide features that promote transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. All core and mirror instances shall be hosted and validated within Philippine territory, with independent verification nodes operated by accredited academic and civil-society institutions under DICT certification.

The CADENA shall employ technologies that ensure verifiable immutability, auditability, and integrity in accordance with open standards prescribed under Section 8 of this Act.

The NBTAC shall, at intervals of not more than three (3) years, review and recommend the adoption of alternative or emerging technologies.

CADENA shall interface with existing government systems including but not limited to the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), Budget and Treasury Management System (BTMS), Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), and other platforms through standardized

Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) or newer technologies. These systems shall maintain parallel operation during transition periods as specified by the NBTAC.

SEC. 8. *Core Features of the CADENA.* – The CADENA shall be designed to promote transparency and accountability in all phases of the national budget cycle. It shall, at a minimum, have the following features:

a. *Data Integrity and Authenticity.* – All published records shall bear digital and non-repudiable signatures, timestamps, and metadata ensuring verifiable origin and traceability.

b. *Transparency and Accessibility.* – All budget records and reports shall be made available through public dashboards and open application programming interfaces

c. *Redundancy and Oversight.* – Independent mirror sites, hosted by qualified and accredited institutions, including government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and the academe, and other third-party audit mechanisms shall be established to safeguard against data loss, tampering, and concentration of control and strengthen mutual oversight and institutional accountability. At least half of all active mirror sites shall be operated by accredited academic or civic institutions independent of the Executive branch, certified annually by the DICT and COA.

d. *Traceability Across the Budget Cycle.* – The system shall maintain a structured audit trail linking each stage of the budget process from call and approval to release, procurement, and liquidation, identifying the responsible committee or agency at each decision point, while observing data minimization and purpose limitation under applicable privacy laws.

e. *Programmability and Process Validation.* – The CADENA may employ rule-based or automated validation tools to ensure compliance with budgetary laws, detect irregularities, and flag inconsistencies for oversight review, without substituting or interfering with lawful approval procedures.

f. *Security and Resilience.* – The system shall employ encryption, redundancy, access controls, and disaster recovery protocols that comply with international cybersecurity standards.

g. *Interoperability and Open Standards.* – The CADENA shall adopt open-source, technology-neutral frameworks and ensure compatibility with existing and future government information systems. The CADENA's source code shall be publicly available through an open-source repository under a government-approved open-source license, including version history and documentation. It shall be designed for integration with the eGov PH Portal, the eGov Super App, and other national digital platforms to allow seamless data exchange, interoperability, and unified public access. The CADENA shall

likewise be accessible to the general public through its own portal and/or other government portals to promote ease of use, transparency, and citizen engagement.

h. **Auditability.** – The system shall maintain verifiable activity logs accessible to the COA and other public auditors and civic society organizations duly authorized by the NTAC for post-factum review, without exposing personal or security-sensitive information on public endpoints.

i. **Citizen Feedback and Participation.** – The CADENA shall include real-time channels for citizens and civil society organizations to report, track, and receive acknowledgment of verified discrepancies or irregularities in published data. Each report shall be logged, traceable, and subject to timely resolution by the concerned agency.

j. **Scalability and Performance.** – The system shall be designed to handle high transaction volumes, ensure continuity of operations during peak usage, and include forward-looking capacity planning sufficient to accommodate at least ten (10) years of projected data growth and system demand.

k. **Outcome-based Metrics.** – The system shall include performance dashboards linking budget disbursements to outputs and outcomes, allowing public tracking of agency performance and corrective actions.

SEC. 9. *Data Sovereignty, Custodianship, and Continuity.* – All fiscal data generated under this Act are property of the Filipino people, held in trust by the State. Such data shall, at all stages of development, pilot, and implementation, be hosted, validated, and replicated exclusively within Philippine jurisdiction, under full sovereign control of the Republic of the Philippines.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall serve as the primary technical custodian responsible for the standards, certification, and enforcement of data sovereignty compliance. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall remain fiscal data owner, and the Commission on Audit (COA) shall retain independent audit access. The DICT shall ensure lawful access, integrity, and long-term preservation of all fiscal data and enforce compliance by all third-party providers, who must maintain auditable access logs and guarantee data portability and interoperability to prevent vendor lock-in.

All hosting infrastructure shall be located within Philippine territory to guarantee national control, resilience, and technological independence. Only in exceptional circumstances, where the physical or cybersecurity risks to national data systems are imminent or beyond domestic mitigation capacity, may the State establish “data embassies” as a temporary continuity measure.

This provision affirms that Philippine data sovereignty is a non-delegable national function, and that any extraterritorial hosting shall be treated strictly as a contingency measure in support of, not in lieu of, local infrastructure self-sufficiency.

All datasets recorded and published through CADENA shall be preserved for not less than fifty (50) years from the date of posting.

DICT shall develop and maintain long-term digital preservation protocols, including migration, replication, and redundancy strategies to ensure continuity of public access regardless of system upgrades, failures, or transitions.

SEC. 10. *National Budget Transparency and Accountability Council (NBTAC)*. – There is hereby created a National Budget Transparency and Accountability Council (NBTAC) to oversee the implementation, audit, and continuous improvement of the CADENA and related mechanisms under this Act.

The Council shall be composed of:

- a. The Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), as Co-chairperson;
- b. The Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), as Co-chairperson;
- c. The Chairperson of the Commission on Audit (COA), Member;
- d. The Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ), Member; and
- e. Five (5) citizen representatives, to be appointed by the President upon joint recommendation of the DICT and DBM, through an open and transparent selection process, representing the following:
 1. Civil society organizations engaged in budget transparency, fiscal openness, or participatory governance;
 2. Academic or research institutions with expertise in public finance, data analytics, or digital governance; and
 3. The media, particularly those with a track record in investigative journalism, data reporting, or governance advocacy.

The citizen members shall serve for a term of three (3) years, without prejudice to reappointment for one (1) additional term.

The Council shall meet at least once every quarter or as often as necessary to effectively discharge its functions under this Act. All regular and special meetings shall be conducted in a transparent and publicly accessible manner, subject to the provisions of this Act and applicable laws.

A dedicated Program Management Office (PMO) for CADENA implementation shall be established under DICT, adequately staffed with technical,

procurement, change management, and project management specialists. It shall also serve as the secretariat for the NBTAC.

SEC. 11. *Functions of the National Budget Transparency and Accountability Council (NBTAC).* – The NBTAC shall:

- a. Formulate and approve policies, data standards, interoperability protocols, and governance guidelines for the CADENA;
- b. Oversee the enforcement of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act;
- c. Oversee compliance and performance audits of the system and its accredited independent mirror sites;
- d. Ensure that all transparency mechanisms remain open-source, secure, and citizen-accessible;
- e. Issue periodic reports to Congress and the President on the state of budget transparency and recommend improvements;
- f. Monitor and evaluate the compliance of agencies covered under Section 5 of this notice non-compliance and warning erring and/or noncomplying public official or employee;
- g. Initiate investigation, *motu proprio*, or upon receipt of a complaint, and refer the same to the Civil Service Commission or the Office of the Ombudsman, or file cases for violations of this Act;
- h. Engage relevant stakeholders in consultative and advisory capacities, when necessary, without expanding the formal membership of the Council;
- i. Ensure that all regular and special meetings of the Council are publicly accessible through live streaming and archiving via recognized streaming platforms or government broadcasting channels, except when discussions involve matters of national security or personal data protection, in which case minutes shall still be published in summary form within seven (7) days; and
- j. Perform such other functions necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Implementation Timeline.* – The establishment and operationalization of CADENA shall be undertaken in phases, ensuring that transparency mechanisms are rolled out in a manner consistent with agency readiness, data integrity, and fiscal process priorities, as follows:

- a. Phase 1: Immediate Disclosure through Agency Websites. – Within nine (9) months from the effectivity of this Act, all National Government

departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities shall upload record and publish in their respective official websites all public documents referred to under Section 5 of this Act: *Provided*, That during this phase, the publication requirement for Infrastructure and Procurement-Related Documents under Section 5(d) shall apply only to projects or contracts with an approved cost exceeding Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00).

All uploaded published documents shall be in digitally structured format, searchable, and officially certified. All agency disclosure systems shall adopt interoperable formats to facilitate continuity and integration.

b. Phase 2: Integration with Top Spending Agencies. – Within twenty four (24) months from the effectivity of this Act, CADENA shall be deployed and fully integrated with the financial management, accounting, and procurement systems of top-spending agencies identified by the NBTAC, including but not limited to the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DWH), Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

During this phase, these agencies shall record and publish all documents enumerated under Section 5 in open-source, interoperable, tamper-evident, and in structured digital format, including all Infrastructure and Procurement-Related Documents under Section 5(d), regardless of project cost, through CADENA.

The DICT, in coordination with the National Privacy Commission (NPC), shall ensure that privacy-impact assessments, cybersecurity protocols, and data-classification standards are in place prior to full deployment of CADENA within these agencies.

c. Phase 3-a: Full Government-Wide Implementation. – Within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, CADENA shall be expanded to cover all other national government agencies, government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCS), and their subsidiaries. All National Government departments, agencies, GOCCs, and other covered entities shall fully comply with the disclosure requirements under Section 5, through CADENA, including the disclosure of all Infrastructure and Procurement-Related Documents under Section 5(d) for all projects, regardless of amount or classification. Nothing in this Section shall preclude any department, agency, or government-owned or -controlled corporation from complying with the requirements of this Act ahead of schedule or from undertaking parallel implementation of succeeding phases.

d. Phase 3-b: Local Government Integration. – LGUs shall likewise disclose their appropriations, allotments, disbursements, and expenditures through the CADENA platform or interoperable local portals compliant with the technical standards set by the Department of Budget and Management

(DBM) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

Implementation for LGUs shall be phased based on capacity, with higher-tier LGUs prioritized. The DBM, DICT, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall jointly provide technical assistance, shared hosting options, and training to ensure compliance without disrupting existing fiscal operations.

SEC. 13. *Capacity-Building and Technical Support.* – During the initial implementation period, the DICT shall provide capacity-building programs, systems integration assistance, and technical support to ensure the readiness of all covered entities for full adoption of CADENA.

SEC. 14. *Progress Reports.* – The DICT shall submit to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) a written progress report within sixty (60) days after the conclusion of each implementation phase of this Act. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

a. *Agency Compliance Levels.* – The percentage of required documents and structured digital records disclosed by covered entities within prescribed timelines;

b. *System Performance.* – Metrics on the CADENA uptime, posting speed, interoperability, and cybersecurity safeguards, including results of independent audits conducted under this Act;

c. *Citizen Access and Participation.* – Data on unique users, frequency of public access, number of downloads, citizen feedback submissions, and government response actions;

d. *Governance and Oversight Metrics.* – Reports on NBTAC activities, meetings, and decisions relating to budget transparency, data integrity, and open-source collaboration;

e. *Challenges Encountered.* – Technical, institutional, budgetary, or legal barriers to compliance, and recommended solutions; and

f. *Recommendations.* – Proposed measures to strengthen transparency, accountability, data security, and citizen engagement.

All progress reports and accompanying datasets shall be published in open, structured digital formats through the CADENA, mirrored by accredited independent institutions and civil-society partners for public verification and long-term archival.

SEC. 15. *Administrative Penalties.* – Any public official or employee who performs or causes the performance of the following acts shall be liable:

a. A. Failure to disclose the required public budget data within seven (7) days from the date of approval, official issuance, receipt by the concerned agency, or completion or generation of the document or work, whichever is applicable; and

b. Issuance, approval, or implementation of policies, rules and regulations that are manifestly contrary or intended to circumvent the provisions of this Act, or obstructs or interferes with the publication, audit, or verification of information under CADENA.

Any violation of the preceding actions shall warrant the following penalties and liabilities:

1. First Offense. – Administrative penalty of reprimand or up to six (6) months suspension from the service.

2. Second Offense. – Administrative penalty of dismissal from the service and perpetual disqualification from holding office.

In cases where no specific officer, employee, or unit is designated as responsible for the submission, publication, or safekeeping of documents required under this Act, the Head of the Procuring Entity shall be presumed responsible and held administratively liable under applicable laws.

SEC. 16. *Penal Provisions.* –

a. Any public official, employee, private individual or entity who commits any of the following shall be liable:

i. Fails to disclose, or publish the required public budget data within thirty (30) days, without justifiable cause, from the date of approval, official issuance, receipt by the concerned agency, or completion or generation of the document or work, whichever is applicable;

ii. Knowingly publishes false, or misleading information to simulate compliance with this Act; or

iii. Willfully denies, conceals the existence of, or destroys or causes to be destroyed, information and/or any document mandated for disclosure under this Act.

Any violation of the preceding actions shall be meted out with the penalty of imprisonment ranging from six (6) years and one (1) day to not

more than fifteen (15) years and a fine of up to Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00).

b. If it is established that such act was committed to conceal or facilitate fraud, graft, or corruption involving public funds or property, the public officer or employee shall be liable as a principal or co-conspirator to crimes punishable under RA No. 3019, otherwise known as the the “*Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act*”, and RA No. 7080, or the “*Anti-Plunder Act*”; and

c. Any private individual or entity who knowingly induces or causes the commission of the foregoing acts shall be liable as principal by inducement in the prosecution of public officials or employees under this section.

Criminal liability shall also be incurred through the commission of bribery, extortion, or when the violation was done maliciously and deliberately to solicit favor in cash or in kind. In such cases, the pertinent provisions of the Revised Penal Code and other special laws shall apply.

SEC. 17. *Administrative Jurisdiction.* – The administrative jurisdiction on any violation of the provisions of this Act shall be vested in either the Civil Service Commission, or the Office of the Ombudsman as determined by appropriate laws and issuances.

SEC. 18. *Civil and Criminal Liability, Not Barred.* – The finding of administrative liability under this Act shall not be a bar to the filing of criminal, civil or other related charges under existing laws arising from the same act or omission as herein enumerated.

SEC. 19. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, DICT, in coordination with DBM, COA, the DOJ, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. The formulation of the IRR shall be undertaken in consultation with representatives from civil society organizations, the academe, media, and relevant industry stakeholders.

SEC. 20. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) is hereby constituted. The JCOC shall be composed of eight (8) members with the Chairpersons of the Committee on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of Representatives as Co-Chairpersons; Chairpersons of the Committee on Finance of the Senate and Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives as members; and two (2) members from each House to be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively.

The JCOC shall monitor the effective implementation of this Act, recommend the necessary remedial or administrative measures, and perform such other duties and functions as may be necessary to attain the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 21. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of DICT for digital-governance and transparency programs. Subsequent funding requirements shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 22. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 23. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders and rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 24. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,